

| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| | 10/816,243 | RICHEY ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Terrell H. Matthews | 3654 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to _____.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 6/24/04
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-20 are pending in the instant application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

The application has been amended as follows:

Specification changes

On page 3 line 15 the “.” After lengths has been removed

On page 3 line 20 – page 4 line 1 beginning with “During” now reads “During use, the diameters of the friction rods gradually increase or decrease so that the friction collars are used to control the descent of the upper frame assembly from a stored position located above the escape opening to the ground”.

On page 7 line 21 “a” has been inserted between “with” and “curved”

On page 8 line 5 “Fig.” has been changed to “Figs.”

On page 8 line 9 a “,” has been inserted after “25” and “respectively”

On page 10 line 13 the “,” has been deleted after the word “stop”

On page 10 line 15 now reads “each stop release arm 115,115”

On page 10 line 17 “release lever 75” has been changed to “release lever 72”

On page 10 line 21 a space has been inserted between 7 and descends

On page 11 line 4 a space has been inserted between carriage and 7

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On page 11 line 6 the word "located" has been inserted between "cross-bracing" and "above"

On page 11 line 7 the "." after "94" has been deleted

On page 11 line 8 now reads "In the preferred embodiment, a hatch release on the escape opening 94 is coupled to the"

On page 11 line 10 the words "is unimpeded" have been inserted after 30'

On page 11 line 11 now reads "25,25' and because support platform 60 falls freely, the flexible carriage walls 62 automatically expand to"

On page 11 line 13 "carriage" has been replaced with "support platform"

On page 11 line 14 the "." has been deleted

Claim changes

Claim 1 has been amended and changed to read as set forth below.

Line 11 section e now reads " a glide collar disposed around said glide rod, said glide collar including means for engaging said spiral vane on said glide rod thereby said glide rod to rotate as said glide collar travels over said glide rod; and,"

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Amended claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record because the teachings of the references taken as a whole do not show or render obvious the combination set forth, including a load lowering system, comprising at least one glide rod vertically

mounted on a building, said glide rod being spaced apart from and parallel to said friction rod, said glide rod including a spiral groove and a spiral vane formed thereon; a glide collar disposed around said glide collar, including means for engaging said spiral vane on said glide rod thereby causing said glide rod to rotate as said glide collar travels over said glide rod.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Terrell H. Matthews whose telephone number is (571)272-5929. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki can be reached on (571) 272-6951. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

THM

Kathy Matecki
KATHY MATECKI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600